

FISCAL NOTE

Bill #: HB0138

Title: Advertisement for school board trustee elections

Primary Sponsor: Lewis, D

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor signature _____ Date _____

Chuck Swysgood, Budget Director _____ Date _____

Fiscal Summary

	<u>FY 2004</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2005</u> <u>Difference</u>
Expenditures:	\$0	\$0
Revenue:	\$0	\$0
Net Impact on General Fund Balance:	\$0	\$0

☒ Significant Local Gov. Impact

☒ Technical Concerns

☐ Included in the Executive Budget

☐ Significant Long-Term Impacts

☐ Dedicated Revenue Form Attached

☐ Needs to be included in HB 2

Fiscal Analysis

ASSUMPTIONS:

No funding mechanism exists in the bill for distributing funds to school districts to meet this requirement. Therefore there is no fiscal impact to the state.

EFFECT ON COUNTY OR OTHER LOCAL REVENUES OR EXPENDITURES:

1. Under current law, districts are not required to publish the closing date for submitting a nomination for a trustee position.
2. HB 138 requires school districts to publish three separate notices in the newspaper to announce the closing date for nominations. It also requires that the notices be broadcast over all radio stations within the district.
3. Montana has 350 school systems; each year all districts would have school board openings and would need to meet this requirement.
4. HB 138 also requires school districts to include the total number of ballots cast in an election in the publication of the canvassed results. This additional requirement should not increase the cost of publishing the results.
5. The rates for three 6 inch column advertisements will vary by the size of community in which it is published. The rates for three 6 inch column ads are: \$90 for small population counties, \$135 medium size population counties (population over 11,000), and \$360 for counties with class AA high schools.
6. There are 192 school systems in counties with populations less than 11,000 which will cost a total of \$69,120; 77 school systems in counties with a population of 11,000 or more and no class AA school

Fiscal Note Request HB0138, As Introduced
(continued)

which will cost \$10,395, and 81 school systems in counties with class AA high schools which will cost \$7,290. The total cost of newspaper advertising \$86,805 statewide.

7. Radio broadcast rates vary. Radio stations may be willing to provide the announcements at no cost as a public service announcement. Many school districts would not have a radio station located within the boundaries of the district. Based on a price quote from one Helena radio station, a district could expect to pay commercial rates of approximately \$50/per station to meet the requirements of HB 138. It is assumed that 20 districts that will need to pay for advertising on two stations, for a cost of \$1,000 statewide.
8. The total cost to districts will be \$87,805. If the legislature does not appropriate monies for the implementation of this requirement, the cost will be paid by the school districts.
9. The effective date of HB 138 is October 1, 2003.

TECHNICAL CONCERNS

To meet the exact requirements of 30 days, 14 days, and 7 days, would imply that these notices would have to be published in daily newspapers. Many local papers are only published weekly. This fiscal note assumes that districts publish in the local paper that most people receive local news, which are often weekly papers.